

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10178 251418Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-04 /054 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6775
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 10178

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, ELAB
SUBJ: ILO 1978 CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 127537

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, USEC LABOR
ATTACHE MET MAY 24 WITH JEF HOUTHUYS, VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), TO CONVEY U.S.
VIEWS ON SIGNIFICANT POINTS COMING UP AT JUNE
INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

2. MAIN POINT COVERED IN HALF HOUR CONVERSATION WAS
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES IN 1978 REPORT BY COMMITTEE OF
EXPERTS ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
HOUTHUYS AGREES STRONGLY THAT THIS STATEMENT MUST BE
INCLUDED IN REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION
OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CACR). AS WORKER
VICE CHAIRMAN OF CACR, HE BELIEVES THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL
AGREE TO ITS INCLUSION.

3. HOUTHUYS SAID THAT HE IS NOT SURE THAT THE CONFERENCE
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PLENARY WILL ADOPT THE REPORT, BUT HE DID SAY THAT THIS
YEAR'S PLENARY WOULD BE MORE RECEPTIVE THAN LAST YEAR'S
TO A REPORT THAT APPLIES UNIFORM STANDARDS IN ITS
JUDGMENTS.

4. HOUTHUYS LISTENED CAREFULLY TO ALL OUR POINTS ON THE
CONFERENCE. HIS VIEWS APPEAR TO ACCORD WITH OURS ON ALL

POINTS EXCEPT THE ONE ON "STRUCTURE." ON LATTER CONTROVERSY, HIS VIEWS APPARENTLY ARE CLOSER TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY IMEC, ALTHOUGH HE DID INDICATE SOME FLEXIBILITY.

5. ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17, HOUTHUYS SAID THAT "THIS IS ONE OF THE SOLUTIONS WE NEED" TO ILO PROBLEMS. SPEAKING MORE GENERALLY, HE SAID THAT ILO LEADERSHIP MUST USE PRESENT CRISIS AS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REFORMS THAT SUPPORTERS OF ILO'S BASIC PRINCIPLES REALIZE ARE NECESSARY.

6. HOUTHUYS ASKED FOR A COPY OF TALKING POINTS THAT WE HAD BROUGHT FOR THE APPOINTMENT, AND WE GAVE IT TO HIM. HE SAID HE IS GLAD THERE WILL BE A SMALL U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION AT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE MIGHT WANT TO CONTACT THE DELEGATION FOR FURTHER IDEAS ON U.S. VIEWS.

7. WE RECOMMEND THAT A MEMBER OF U.S. DELEGATION CONTACT HOUTHUYS EARLY IN THE SESSION TO EXPRESS MORAL SUPPORT FOR DIFFICULT ROLE HE HAS AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF CACR. HINTON

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